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THE THOMPSON WESTCOTT DESCRIPTIONS OF MILITARY DRESS DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

by Lt. Col. John R. Elting, U. S. Army

This rediscovered list, compiled some sixty-five years in advance of Lefferts' work is reprinted here with editorial comment for the additional information it offers.

Sometime before the Civil War, an independent-minded citizen named Thompson Westcott became disgusted with the contemporary lack of knowledge concerning the uniforms worn by American troops during the Revolutionary War. Westcott (1820-1888) was a versatile Philadelphian—by turns conveyancer, lawyer, newspaper editor, and historian. He had single-handedly launched and edited the *Sunday Dispatch*, Philadelphia's first successful Sunday newspaper, and was an unquestioned authority on Philadelphia history. Consequently, he sat down and produced an article intended to enlighten and stimulate public interest.

His article was published in the *Historical Magazine* for December 1860, and was reprinted (in slightly abridged form) in the *Military Gazette of New York* for January 1861. There a COMPANY member found it recently while pursuing other researches. Further checking determined that it had also been bodily incorporated into that not-too-well known publication, *Uniforms of the Army of the United States From 1774 to 1889*, published by the Quartermaster General as the official text for H. A. Ogden's initial series of plates on American uniforms.

To follow up this rediscovery, I compared Westcott's article with Charles M. Lefferts' *Uniforms of the American, British, French, and German Armies in the War of the American Revolution* and with Heitman's list of Revolutionary officers. It was im-

mediately obvious that approximately half of Westcott's descriptions—especially those of uniforms from 1778 on—had not been included in Lefferts' work. Naturally, it is difficult to determine whether some of Westcott's descriptions are from the same sources as Lefferts'—both men appear to have done some editing, and so may have rephrased the same deserter notices differently. However, it is equally possible that they were merely quoting different—but similarly phrased—sources. Conversely, it appears that many of the deserter descriptions found in Lefferts' book were unknown to the editor of *Uniforms of the Army of the United States*. (An additional re-checking became necessary when COMPANY Member Detmar H. Finke, produced the original *Historical Magazine* article—and the gaps in the *Military Gazette of New York* reprint became painfully obvious.

Westcott's article, as reproduced here, has been edited as follows: each item has been numbered, for easier reference; those descriptions which definitely appear identical with others found in Lefferts' work are marked with an asterisk. My comments, in italics, follow each item where appropriate.

In reading Westcott's descriptions, it is well to keep in mind that the terms "battalion" and "regiment" were frequently synonymous during the Revolution, especially in 1776-77. Likewise "cape" frequently meant "collar." The article follows:

Uniforms During the Revolutionary War

In this country there seem to be very erroneous ideas of the colors and materials of the uniforms of the Continental troops during the Revolutionary War. The popular notion is that the regular colors were blue and buff. Such undoubtedly were the colors of the commander-in-chief and his staff; but the rank and file rarely wore these colors. The prevailing uniforms were brown, mixed with red or white; and green, with like trimmings. We have in our Atlantic cities certain companies of volunteers called "Continental companies" which, through ignorance on this subject, have adopted uniforms such as the private soldiers of the Revolutionary War could never have worn; and, indeed, in these modern companies, each member appears with blue and buff coats, buff breeches, and usually, top boots, cocked hats, and ruffled shirts, such as Washington and the major generals usually wore upon grand parade days. This is very absurd to the historical student, and should be reformed. In hope of doing something toward this object, I have compiled descriptions of the uniforms of various regiments during the Revolutionary War, as they were advertised in the notices of deserters published in Philadelphia newspapers. I would suggest to gentlemen having access to files of old newspapers, published in New York, Boston, and in other places, during the Revolution, that it is very likely that by references to the descriptions of deserters therein, much more interesting information may be obtained in relation to the Revolutionary uniforms.

Thompson Westcott

Pennsylvania

1. 1776.—Colonel Shee's 3d Battalion, Associates of Philadelphia; brown regimental coats, white facings, pewter buttons, with "No. 3" upon them; white laced hat, bound with white tape; buckskin breeches. (*This was the 3d Pennsylvania Battalion [Colonel John Shee]. The description is similar to two given by Lefferts, and should be taken as confirming them.*)

2. Pennsylvania musketmen, Col. Parry: blue coats, faced with red; white jackets; buckskin breeches; white stockings and shoes. (*Pennsylvania Musket Battalion [Lieutenant Colonel Caleb Perry]. Lefferts uses the title "Musketry Battalion"; the above is from Heitman. The description corresponds closely to two given by Lefferts, but is not identical.*)

3. Capt. Josias Harmer's company, 1st Pennsyl-

vania Battalion; brown coats, faced with buff; swanskin jackets. (*Undoubtedly "Captain Harmer's company"—1st Pennsylvania Battalion [Captain Josiah Harmer].*)*

4. Capt. Vernon's Chester county company (4th battalion, Col. Anthony Wayne): dark blue coats, faced with white. (*4th Pennsylvania Battalion [Colonel Anthony Wayne]. This advertisement does not appear in Lefferts' and is completely different from the miscellaneous clothing given in his material on Wayne's battalion for 1776. I would suggest that this uniform was issued late in that year; the 1st Pennsylvania shows the same motley collection of clothing, later replaced by a uniform.*)

5. Capt. Persifer Fraser's company, 4th battalion; brown coat, blue silk facings. (*The captain's first name should be "Persifer"; Lefferts gives this and one even odder outfit for his company. See 4 above.*)*

6. Col. Green's 2d battalion of rifles (Capt. Copperthwait's Lancaster company); green frock and trousers. (*Militia: 2d Battalion, Lancaster County Riflemen. Lefferts gives the officer's name as "Captain Copenhaver." It is possible that this was another company in the same battalion.*)

7. Capt. Jacob Humphrey's company, 1st battalion, Pennsylvania, Flying camp; dark hunting shirt. (*Militia: First Philadelphia County Battalion of the Flying Camp [Captain Jacob Humphrey]. See 9 below.*)

8. 1st battalion, Cumberland county; hunting shirts and leggings. (*Militia: 1st Battalion, Cumberland County Militia. This partially confirms a more complete description given by Lefferts.*)

9. Capt. Thos. Holme, 1st Philadelphia county battalion, Flying camp; brown coat, faced with red; leather breeches, yarn stockings. (*Militia: 1st Philadelphia County Battalion of the Flying Camp. [Captain Thomas Holmes.]*)*

10. Col. Penrose's battalion; short brown coat, "of a reddish cast," turned up with red. (*5th Pennsylvania Battalion [Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Penrose]. This description differs from those Lefferts quotes for 1776; it closely resembles some he gives for 1777. Penrose, however, left the 5th Pennsylvania Battalion in October 1776. Possibly this brown and red uniform was issued late that year.*)

11. Capt. Murray's company of rifles; light-colored hunting shirt, with fringes. (*2d Battalion, Miles' Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment [Captain John Murray]. This description is almost, but not quite, the same as two given by Lefferts.*)

12. Col. Irwin's battalion; blue coats turned up with red. *Cannot be positively identified. There were two Irvines with the Pennsylvania troops—Colonel William Irvine and Lieutenant Colonel James Irvine. The former commanded the 6th Pennsylvania Battalion; the latter was associated with both the 1st and the 9th. This description, however, is identical with two Lefferts gives for the 6th.)**

13. Capt. Isaac Farnsworth's company, Flying camp; blue hunting shirt. (*Militia: Cannot definitely identify this unit.*)

14. Capt. Robert's company of rifles, 2d battalion, Col. Hart; yellowish hunting shirt. (*Militia: 2d Bucks County Battalion of the Flying Camp. [Captain William Robert's company of riflemen.])**

15. Capt. Hazlett's company, Col. Jno. Moore's battalion, Flying camp: brown coat, faced with green; red woven breeches; white jacket; stockings; round hat. (*Militia: 1st Philadelphia County Battalion of the Flying Camp [Captain James Hazlett]. See 7 and 9 above.)**

16. Capt. Andrew's company, Col. Sam'l Mills' rifle regiment: black hunting shirts. (*This uniform description matches that given by Lefferts for Capt. Andrew Long's company, 1st Battalion, Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment. Possibly there is a typographical error here.*)

17. 1777, April.—Capt. Wilson's company, 1st Pennsylvania battalion: light-colored coat, with red facings. (*1st Regiment, Pennsylvania Line [Captain James Wilson]. Agrees with two more complete descriptions given by Lefferts.*)

18. August. Col. Walter Stewart's regiment: blue coats, turned up with red; white metal buttons, with S.P.R. on them. (*Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot.)**

19. 1777, January.—1st Pennsylvania regiment, Col. de Haas: blue coats, faced with white; 1 P.B. on buttons. (*Lefferts gives no such uniform for 1777.*)

20. 1777, April.—Col. Humphrey's 11th Pa. regiment: light-infantry caps; blue coats, with scarlet capes and cuffs; white woolen waistcoats, new buckskin breeches. (*No "Colonel Humphrey" can be located. This is the 11th Regiment, Pennsylvania Line [Colonel Richard Humpton.])**

21. July.—1st battalion Pennsylvania Regulars; brown coats, faced with green. (*1st Pennsylvania Battalion. Lefferts gives several such descriptions, so that this uniform must be accepted as regulation for this unit.)**

22. March.—Pennsylvania armed boats: brown coats, faced with green, letters 1 P.B. on the buttons; cocked hats. (*Cannot definitely identify this unit. Lefferts gives four almost identical uniforms for the 1st Pennsylvania Battalion in 1777, but does not mention the "cocked hats." This may be a case of misplaced identity and date, or this special force may have been using the 1st's left-overs, or have been former—at least in part—of drafts from the 1st Battalion.*)

23. 2d Pennsylvania battalion: brown coats, faced with green. (*Lefferts gives several uniforms for this unit in 1777; several have brown coats, but no green facings are mentioned.*)

24. 2d Regiment, Col. Irvine's: blue coat, scarlet facings; blue waistcoat; regimental hat. (*2d Regiment, Pennsylvania Line [Colonel James Irvine.])**

25. 9th Pennsylvania regiment, Lieut. Col. Najeet: brown coats, turned up with red; buckskin breeches. (*The 9th Pennsylvania received a new issue of brown uniforms, faced with red, early in 1777; Lefferts gives several examples. "Najeet" is a misprint for Lieutenant Colonel George Nagel.*)

26. 5th Pennsylvania battalion: blue coat, faced with white; buckskin breeches; blue yarn stockings. (*5th Regiment, Pennsylvania Line.)**

27. March.—13th Pennsylvania regiment: blue coats faced with white. (*Lefferts' descriptions show a variety of uniforms in this regiment during 1777.)**

28. 13th Pennsylvania regiment: brown coat, faced with buff; light-colored cloth breeches; coarse white woolen stockings; old wool hat. (*[Colonel Walter Stewart]. Almost identical with a description given by Lefferts, but apparently a different one. See 27 above.*)

29. Capt. Woelper's company, German regiment: white hunting frock and breeches; striped leggings. (*The German Regiment [Captain John David Woelper.])**

30. 1778, May.—1st Pennsylvania regiment: black coats, turned up with white. (*Lefferts notes two such uniforms in this regiment—among other colors—during 1778.*)

31. Capt. Wilson's company, same battalion: brown coats, turned up with buff. (*[Captain James Wilson's company.] Two black coats—see 30 above—were also from his company, as well as a "green coat."*)*

32. Col. Hartley's Pennsylvania regiment: blue uniform coats, faced with yellow; grenadiers' light-

infantry caps. (11th Regiment, Pennsylvania Line [Colonel Thomas Hartley]. Originally one of the "Sixteen Additional Continental Regiments"—"Heartley's foot Guards"; became the "New 11th" in late 1778. *Lefferts* has no entries for this regiment in 1778. The description would seem to indicate that it had a grenadier company.)

33. Col. Richard Butler's 9th Pennsylvania: brown uniform coat, faced with red, red cuffs and red cape; new cocked hats, white looping. (*Lefferts* has several descriptions in general agreement with this.)

34. Col. Thos. Proctor's artillery: blue coat, with buff and white facings. (4th Continental Artillery Regiment [Colonel Thomas Proctor]. *Lefferts* has a more complete description, in general agreement.)

35. 1779.—Col. Benj. Flowers' 1st company artillery: black coat, faced with red; brown jackets; white buttons, letters U.S.A. on them; buckskin breeches; white stockings and felt hat. (Colonel Benjamin Flowers' Artillery Artificer Regiment.)*

36. February.—Gen. Wayne's division: blue regimental coats, lined with white; ruffled shirts; red flannel leggings; and "a sort of cap dressed up with fur." (This would be the Pennsylvania Line, but it will require further digging to identify the regiments. *Lefferts* has very few descriptions from 1779. One for the 7th Pennsylvania Regiment bears a vague resemblance. This description is unique. We should follow it up.)

37. 3d Pennsylvania regiment: blue coat, turned up with red; white cloth jacket and breeches; old hat, and continental shirt. (*Lefferts* has a similar item.)

38. 11th Pennsylvania regiment: long blue uniform coats, faced with buff; small round hats.*

39. Invalid regiment, Philadelphia, Col. Lewis Nicola: brown coat, faced with green.*

40. 1779.—"As black and red have been pitched upon for that of the American Continental artillery it is unreasonable for him (Col. Proctor), to make objection to it" (Washington to Pres. Reed, April 5, 1779, VII. Pa. Archives, 293.) (See 34 and 35 above. Blue—usually with red facings—was considered the traditional artilleryman's color; Proctor may have been a traditionalist.)

41. 1780.—Colonel Hubley's 11th Pennsylvania regiment: blue regimental coat, faced with red, and buff edging; round hat and black feather. (["Lt. Col. Commandant" Adam Hubley]. *Lefferts*

has a somewhat longer description of this uniform.)

42. 2d Pennsylvania regiment: blue coats faced with scarlet; round hat, black ferreting. (This was Colonel Walter Stewart's regiment. *Lefferts* has the same information, differently phrased.)

43. 1782.—1st Pennsylvania regiment, Colonel Dan'l Brodhead: blue regimental coat, faced with red. (Colonel Daniel Brodhead.)

Virginia

44. 1777.—9th Virginia regiment: light brown coats, with light red facings. (*Lefferts* has a confirming description; regiment commanded by Colonel George Matthews.)

45. July.—13th Virginia regiment: blue regimental coat, cuffed and faced with yellow; blue breeches; white stockings. (*Lefferts* has three similar descriptions, so that this handsome uniform seems well established. Would anyone care to do a plate on this? [Colonel William Russell].)

46. 1778.—3d Virginia regiment: light blue drab coat, pale blue facings; green vest; linen overalls. (Colonel Henry Heth.)*

47. 1779.—6th Virginia regiment: black uniform coats, faced with red; white, waistcoats; linen shirts and overalls. (*Lefferts* has no 1779 descriptions of this regiment's uniform. It, too, would make a striking plate.)

Maryland

48. 1777.—6th Maryland regiment: gray regimental coat; waistcoat of gray cloth, faced with green; gray cloth breeches. ([Colonel Otho M. Williams.] *Lefferts* has two similar descriptions of this uniform.)

49. August.—5th Maryland regiment: brown coat, faced with red; "spotted swanskin vest," oval buttons; brown broadcloth breeches; white stockings, "Continental shoes." (Colonel William Richardson.)*

50. April 7th. Maryland regiment: blue coat, white collar and cuffs; white jacket; drilling breeches. (From similar descriptions in *Lefferts*, this must have been the 6th Maryland Regiment, though a few similar outfits appear on deserters from the 5th, also.)

South Carolina

(NOTE: There is nothing in *Lefferts* on South Carolina.)

51. 1778, March.—1st regiment, Colonel Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, 450 men: black coats, faced with red.

52. 3d regiment, Col. Huyler; same uniform; also frocks. (*Obviously another logistical snafu.*)

53. 5th regiment, Col. Sumpter. Uniform of the officers—red, faced with black. ([Colonel Thomas Sumter]—*An unusual uniform for Americans, unless it can be traced to a pre-war provincial uniform, or to captures from the British.*)

54. 6th regiment militia grenadiers; “all in proper dress, with caps.” (*Who can reconstruct this uniform?*)

New Jersey

55. 1777.—Captain Jas. Dillon, 2d New Jersey regiment: blue coats, turned up with red. ([Captain James Dillon.] *Lefferts has two similar descriptions.*)

56. Captain Ross, 3d New Jersey regiment: blue regimental coat, faced with red; spotted jacket; blue breeches. (*Captain John Ross.*)*

Continental Regiments, and Unclassified Troops

57. 1777.—Congress’ Own regiment, Colonel Moses Hazen: brown regimental coat, turned up at the sleeves with white, and trimmed with small metal buttons; white cloth jacket and breeches; white yarn hose; strong shoes and fantail hat; a light infantry cap, with the letters C.O.R. in cipher, in front, with motto *Pro aris et focis*. (2d Canadian Regiment. *Lefferts has several identical descriptions. Westcott apparently consolidated several descriptions.*)

58. Major Farmer’s regiment: brown coat, faced with green. (*Probably the 1st Pennsylvania.*)

59. April.—Col. Oliver Spencer’s regiment of Guards: blue coats, red facings. (*One of the “Sixteen Additional;” also “Spencer’s Regiment of Foot Guards.” Lefferts gives slightly more detail.*)

60. August.—Gen. Knox’s artillery: black coats, turned up with red; white wool jacket and breeches; hat trimmed with yellow. (*See 40 above; Lefferts has a large number of descriptions of this same general type.*)

61. May.—Col. Hartley’s regiment, Foot Guards: blue regimental coat, white cape; white jacket; buckskin breeches; stockings; shoes. (*See 32 above.*)*

62. 1778, January.—Col. Lee’s regiment: blue, faced with white; white waistcoats; black breeches. (*Another of the “Sixteen Additional” [Colonel William R. Lee]. Lefferts has three or four confirming items.*)*

63. 1778, December.—Capt. Cozen’s regiment

of artillery: black coats, faced with red; blue overalls. (*Undoubtedly the “Independent Company of Pennsylvania Artillery” [Captain Isaac Coren]. This unit was attached to Flowers’ Artillery Artificer Regiment—see 35 above.*)

64. 1779, Feb. 16.—Capt. Scott’s company (Gen. Putnam’s division): blue regimental coat, turned up with red; buttons, marked U.S.; white flannel jacket and drawers; coarse white linen stockings, shoes. (*I cannot identify this one; possibly the 13th Regiment, Pennsylvania Line.*)

65. April.—4th Regiment light dragoons: green cloak, red cape; green coat, turned up with red; red waistcoat; buckskin breeches, and a leather cap turned up with bearskin. (*Lefferts has a number of good descriptions of this uniform. It’s ripe for a plate.*)*

66. Capt. Carbury’s troop, light dragoons: blue coat, turned up with red, sleeves and collar red; red jacket; buckskin breeches; boots, carbine, and belt. (*Captain Carberry was detailed from the 11th Pennsylvania to the “Light Horse,” is it unspecified. This description fits, generally, the 1st Regiment of Light Dragoons. [Off-hand, the expression “sleeves red” sounds odd and might mean a blue shell jacket worn over sleeved red waistcoat; more likely, however, it merely means red cuffs.] A Quaker girl in September 1777 noted that she mistook Bland’s 1st Light Dragoons for British because “they wore blue and red, which with us is not common.” Lefferts has a similar description, but less detailed.*)

67. 1777, July 10.—A deserter from the Continental ship *Champion*, Capt. Josiah; wore a blue coat, turned up with white, and a gold-laced cap. (*This is one of the very few descriptions of Revolutionary naval outfits.*)

A review of this list shows a large number of totally unfamiliar uniforms—black, faced with red, for example. It also reveals an amazing variety of headgear, and a considerable number of what must have been smart—and even ornate—regimentals. There is also a hint that grenadier units, first noted in COMPANY researches several years ago, were not uncommon. Someday, we may be able to reconstruct Washington’s army much as it actually looked. One thing is fairly certain—if any Continental soldier *had* appeared in the conventional Revolutionary uniforms of our childhood history books, he would probably have been gathered in by Captain von Heer’s provost light dragoons as a suspicious foreigner.

Fort Tongass, Alaska, circa 1870; looking north from the flag staff. In the foreground is a U.S. Mountain Howitzer, model 1841.



U.S. TROOPS IN ALASKA, 1867-77¹

by Valerie K. Stubbs

Alaska was purchased from Russia by the Treaty of 30 March 1867, which was proclaimed by the President on 20 June. In August the United States and Russia appointed commissioners to make the formal transfer of the territory—Brigadier General (Brevet Major General) Lovell H. Rousseau, U.S. Army, and Captain Alexis Pestchouroff of the Russian Imperial Navy. The newly acquired territory was formed into the District of Alaska, in accordance with instructions from the General of the Army dated 29 May 1867, and attached to the Department of California under the Military Division of the Pacific.

On 6 September 1867, Brevet Major General Jefferson C. Davis, Colonel, 23d Infantry, was appointed as commander of the District of Alaska. General Davis and his command, Battery H, 2d Artillery, and Company F, 9th Infantry, left San Francisco on the *John L. Stevens* on 25 September

and anchored in Sitka Harbor 10 October. The troops, according to instructions received from Major General Henry W. Halleck, commanding the Military Division of the Pacific, remained on board ship until the arrival of the commissioners of transfer on the *Ossipee* the morning of 18 October.

After participating in the formal transfer ceremony that same afternoon, the troops began unloading their stores and preparing for occupancy of the buildings turned over by the Russians as public property. On 26 October the commissioners signed the protocol of transfer, and the American commissioner, General Rousseau, left Sitka that same day to take command of the Department of the Columbia at Portland.

On 29 October General Davis assumed command of the District of Alaska, with headquarters at Sitka (called New Archangel by the Russians, but officially designated Sitka in December 1867),



Brevet Major General Jefferson C. Davis, first U. S. Army commander in Alaska.

and announced the jurisdiction of the United States over the territory and its occupancy by U.S. troops. He also announced that since the U.S. Government had not yet provided for the organization of civil authority in the territory, it became the duty of the military authorities to give protection to the inhabitants and their property.

Because of the lateness of the season, Sitka was the only military post established in Alaska in the fall of 1867. In the spring of 1868, the District of Alaska became the Department of Alaska directly under the Military Division of the Pacific. General Davis remained in command with headquarters at Sitka. Five other posts were subsequently established—two in southeastern Alaska and three far to the west.

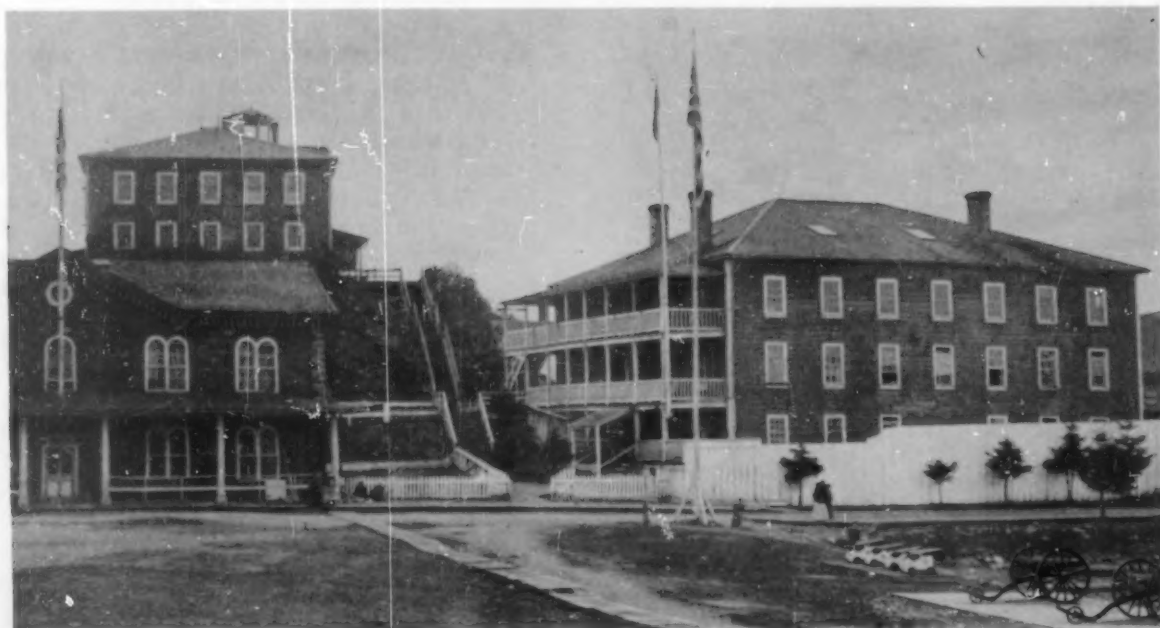
Battery E, 2d Artillery, established Fort Tongass on a small island at the mouth of Portland Canal in April 1868, and in early May a detachment from that same unit established Fort Wrangell on Wrangell Island, near the mouth of the Stikine

River. This detachment, when relieved by Battery I, 2d Artillery, several months later returned to Fort Tongass. In June 1868, Battery G, 2d Artillery, established Fort Kodiak, on Kodiak Island. While attempting to establish Fort Kenay on Cook Inlet in July, Battery F, 2d Artillery, was shipwrecked and forced to winter at Fort Kodiak. In the spring of 1869 that unit successfully established Fort Kenay, and a detachment from Fort Kodiak was sent to St. Paul and St. George Islands in the Bering Sea, to assist Treasury officials in carrying out regulations regarding the killing of fur seals there.

General Davis retained command of both the Department of Alaska and the post of Sitka until 1 December 1868, when he turned command of the post over to Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William N. Dennison, Captain, 2d Artillery. In the spring of 1869 a change of garrison took place at Sitka. The officers of Company F, 9th Infantry, were returned to the States, while the enlisted men were attached to Battery H, 2d Artillery, until the arrival of Company E, 23d Infantry, in July. The commander of the latter unit, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel George K. Brady, Captain, 23d Infantry, relieved Colonel Dennison from command of the post, while Colonel Dennison continued in command of Battery H, 2d Artillery.

The Department of Alaska was discontinued effective 1 July 1870, and the territory was attached to the Department of the Columbia. Shortly afterward General Davis and his department staff returned to the States for reassignment. In the fall of 1870, all the military posts in Alaska except Sitka were discontinued. Battery I, 2d Artillery, was transferred from Fort Wrangell to Sitka to join Company E, 23d Infantry, while Batteries E, F, G, and H, 2d Artillery, were withdrawn from Alaska. Major John C. Tidball, who had formerly commanded the District of Kenay at Fort Kodiak as a brevet brigadier general, succeeded Colonel Brady in command of the post of Sitka in September 1870.

Between 1870 and 1877 the troops and post commanders at Sitka were rotated on an average of every two years. Battery C, 2d Artillery, replaced Company E, 23d Infantry, in June 1871. Battery H, 2d Artillery, returned for a second tour of duty in Alaska to relieve Battery I, same regiment, in June 1872. Batteries C and D, 4th Artillery, which arrived in Sitka in December 1872 to replace C and H, 2d Artillery, were in turn relieved by Bat-



Public buildings at Sitka, Alaska, circa 1870. At left is the Custom House, above it the Governor's House and at right barracks, all of Russian construction. In the foreground are four carronades and two U.S. Dahlgren Boat Howitzers.

One of three Russian blockhouses, which were turned over to the U.S. Army at Sitka along with an armament of light guns and carronades.



teries F and L, 4th Artillery, in August 1874. Batteries A, G, and M, 4th Artillery, the last troops sent to Alaska during this period, replaced F and L in June 1876.

In the fall of 1874 a detachment was sent from Sitka to Fort Wrangell because of the illicit liquor traffic there, and in the summer of 1875 the latter post was reestablished as a separate post garrisoned by Company B, 21st Infantry, until November 1876, when it was relieved by Battery A, 4th Artillery, transferred from Sitka. The posts of Sitka and Fort Wrangell were abandoned in June 1877, and all military control over Alaska ceased.

Responsibility for the territory passed into the hands of the Treasury Department, which previously had charge of its commerce in furs and fisheries. In 1879 the Navy joined the Treasury Department in administering the territory until 1884, when the first civil government was established. Except for occasional exploring parties, the Army did not return to Alaska for twenty years, when it was recalled to assist the civil authorities in maintaining law and order in the Yukon region.

REFERENCES

¹ This article is based on the author's study, *The U.S. Army in Alaska, 1867-77: An Experiment in Military Government*, M.A. Thesis, The American University, Washington, D. C., 1956. Official Army records in The National Archives, Washington, D. C., were the principal sources used in the preparation of the original manuscript, which is fully documented. Copies are on file in The American University Library.

THE MILITARY RIFLE POUCH

by Don H. Berkebile

While much attention has been given to the arms, and more recently to the flasks of the early riflemen, the bullet pouches which they carried have been somewhat overlooked. Due possibly to the serviceability of the pouch as a hunter's accessory, most of them apparently were worn out long ago; thus original specimens are almost unknown.

During the French and Indian War the cartridge box was in common use, yet many Provincial troops did not easily adapt themselves to the use of the cartridge, preferring instead the pouch and horn with which they were more familiar. Henry Bouquet wrote General Forbes from Fort Loudoun on June 14, 1758, concerning this difficulty:

I have noticed a great inconvenience in the use of cartridge boxes for the provincial troops.

They do not know how to make cartridges, or rather they take too much time.

In the woods, they seldom have time or places suitable to make them.

These cartridge boxes hold only 9 charges, some twelve, which is not sufficient.

I think that their powder horns and pouches for carrying bullets would be much more useful, keeping the cartridge box, however, to use in case of a sudden or night attack. The difficulty is in providing them. I do not know if that is possible at Philadelphia. Col. Washington undertook to collect as many as he could for the Virginians, and to make sacks of Raven duck¹ for the bullets, instead of leather.²

Details of the pouches of this period are not yet known, but it is likely that they resembled those of the non-military hunter with no definite pattern prevailing. The popularity of the pouch and horn continued with many troops during the Revolution as evidenced by such orders as the one issued from Middle Brook on 17 December 1778, requiring the Commissary of hides "to Deposit all the horns of the Cattle Kill'd for the army with the Commissary of Military Stores, who is hereby Directed to have them Converted Into Powder Horns, for the use of the Troops, as fast as they are Delivered him."³

In the years following the war, ordnance reports of various forts continue, with the usual lack of description, to carry pouches and belts, sometimes as separate items. This may be an indication that the belts were not always permanently attached to the pouches as civilian belts customarily were, but instead fastened with buckles or perhaps hooks. It is not unlikely that the pouch may have had two short straps with buckles in which were secured



Two typical early hunting pouches from the collection of the author. Each has its powder horn attached to the carrying strap of the bag.

the ends of the shoulder belt, following the manner in which many early cartridge boxes were slung. Likewise, a horn made in Pittsburgh Arsenal had a short strap with buckle fastened in the neck ring. The free end of the shoulder sling then engaged with the buckle, while the other end was sewn permanently to the base plug.⁴

References to the pouch during the War of 1812 became slightly more descriptive. William Duane, in describing the equipment in his 1813 *Hand Book for Riflemen*, wrote:

A cartridge box of flexible leather containing two rows of tin unsoldered cases, to contain 30 or 36 rounds ball cartridge; a double pouch slung over his right shoulder and under his left arm, one partition containing 60 loose well smoothed balls, and in the other partition his turn screw, knife, scouring brush, oil rag, patches. Over his left shoulder and under his right arm hang his powder horn with the best powder.⁵

Here the two section pouch begins to resemble the later type illustrated in this article. McBarron shows an excellent reconstruction of this pouch in



Regiment of Riflemen, Winter Uniform, 1812-1813

Plate 95 of the *Military Uniforms in America* series. Reprinted to illustrate the rifle accoutrements of the period.

plate 95 of the *MUIA* series. Note, however, that unlike the later method, the horn was to be carried on a separate sling, and over the opposite shoulder from the pouch. Whether or not this practice was actually followed cannot be ascertained; yet Duane was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Regiment of Riflemen from 1808 to 1810, so perhaps this may have some significance.

During this time there was also issued a black leather waist belt, 3 inches wide, on the front of which hung a pocket, usually of painted linen. The pocket, not to be confused with the pouch, may well have been the forerunner of the riflemen's cartridge box. In the pocket must have been carried the cartridges used when the riflemen were forced to act as regular infantry. On the matter, Duane writes:

Riflemen are never required to fire with cartridges but when acting in close order, which though it often happens, is not precisely their province in action. Whenever it is practicable, riflemen will load with powder measure and loose ball. They must be first taught to load and fire with cartridge like infantry; after which the principal instructions for recruits will be how to load with loose ball, and to fire at the target.⁶

The pocket is no longer mentioned after the War of 1812. The cartridge box is mentioned several times during the last years of the Regiment of Riflemen. The Regimental Orders of 31 October 1819 mention the box, but again point out the use of the pouch:

The uniform will be the gray Dress both for Officers and soldiers, except that the cartouch box will only be worn on parade, and which must be put in the highest order. The powder horn and pouch will be reserved for excursions or any species of actual service without any regard being paid to polishing, but they must ever be held in complete readiness for action. The rifles must be suffered to rust until they acquire a brownish cast and no burnishing must be permitted except to brass.

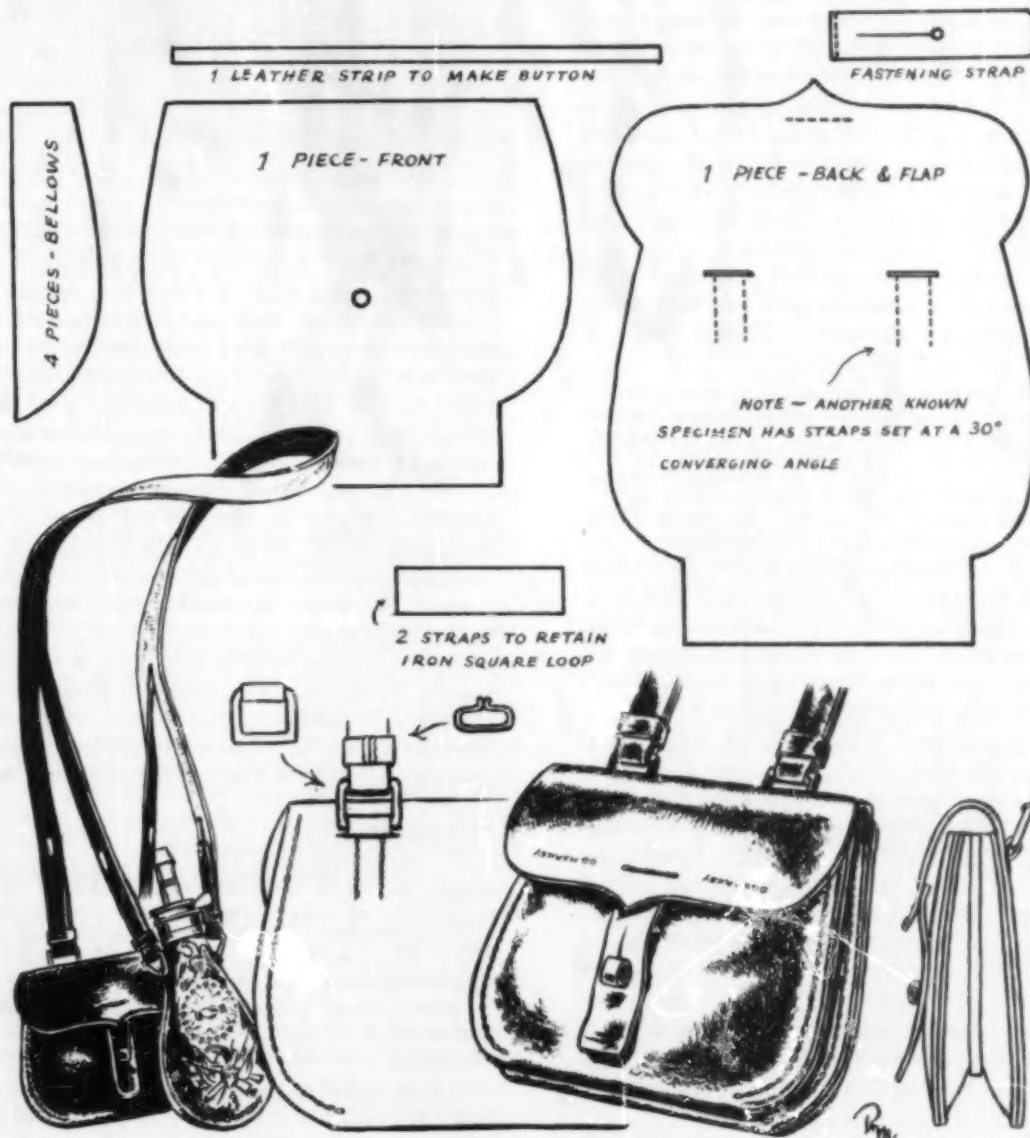
With the 1830s came the copper powder flasks, which were issued in place of the earlier horns, to the various States along with rifles and accoutrements. Few details have been found concerning the pouch, but several references to the belts have been discovered. The belts of the 1834 *Ordnance Regulations* were made both in white (buff) leather and black (probably bridle leather). The ends of the belt were split, as in the illustrated belt, each part being $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide to receive a buckle, and it was worn with an oval brass plate on the breast. Correspondence of 1836 from Major R. L. Baker of Allegheny Arsenal notes a slight change in the belts with regard to the fastening of the pouch and flask. On July 19 he remarks, "The pouch and flask belt (one) which I am now making, has two spring

1 BUFF LEATHER
PARTITION

U.S. Rifleman's Pouch

c 1832 ~ 1857

FOR A FULL PATTERN ENLARGE THIS LINE TO 7 3/8 INCHES



hooks, or swivels, attached to the slings for suspending the flask. This plan is one that Mr. Dingee sent me. . . .⁷ Again, on August 11, he wrote:

I have been directed to make a Rifle flask and Pouch belt, arranged in such a manner, if practicable, as to attach it, either to the Cooper, or Hall's Rifle flask, or to a powder Horn. The object being the use of either of the three with the same pouch and flask belt, should occasion require it. . . . The pouch and flask belts that I am now manufacturing are precisely after a pattern furnished from Mr. Dingee, with wire suspension hooks . . . substituted for the buckles and strap.⁸

In the 1839 *Ordnance Regulations* a new pattern is mentioned, but again, no details. It is apparent, however, that the belt plate was no longer used with the pouch belt. Instead, the troops equipped with the Hall rifle wore a bayonet belt as they had done before, but with a plate on it. It is possible that those using the Hall at an earlier date, had transferred the plate from the pouch belt over to the bayonet belt, while the users of the common rifle had no bayonet belt and wore the plate on the pouch belt as was originally intended.

The *Ordnance Manual* of 1841 gives the first accurate description of the pouch and belt. From these dimensions it is possible to identify the pouch illustrated as one of this period:

Pouch, light upper shoe leather, 7 in. wide at the bottom, 6.6 in. at top, 5.5 in. deep, made with gussets at the sides and bottom—partition, buff leather-flap, 2.7 in. deep, with a strap and leather button on the front side—2 loops, japanned iron, 0.9 in. wide and 0.7 in. long, for the belt rings. Flask-and-pouch belt, buff leather, 1.45 in. wide—belt, 26 in. long—2 straps at each end, 13.5 in. long, 0.6 in. and 0.85 in. wide, to which the pouch and flask are attached by brass hooks.

The specimen illustrated here was found recently in an antique shop in western Pennsylvania. With it came a somewhat mutilated pouch and flask belt, and a narrow (1½" wide) buff leather waist belt and small oval U. S. Plate. Both the pouch and belt plate bear the name of the contractor, C. G. Markey. The pouch itself is in excellent condition, and while it is now dark with age, it shows no signs of any black dressing or dye. It seems rather to have a brown or russet tint, and appears to have had no finish. While the 1834 regulations specify the color to be black, later regulations say simply "light upper shoe leather," which could mean either light weight, or light color. The inner partition is of undyed buff leather, as specified. When found, the front pocket of the pouch contained a number of round balls, several of 54 caliber, the others of a smaller caliber; the back pocket contained a large wad of clean tow used for wiping the bore of the gun.

Both the pouch belt and the waist belt were buff



A flask and pouch set collected recently by Member J. L. Shornak.

leather, dyed black. It is not certain if they were originally black since both black and white belts had been issued. It is a safe guess, however, in view of the rather uneven dying job, that these were both originally white, and were dyed by some person at a later date. It is also reasonable to assume that all buff belts at this time were issued white, while the black ones were bridle leather.

The *Ordnance Manual* of 1850 gives essentially the same dimensions of the pouch and belt, except that the belt and the wider of the two end straps had both gained .05 of an inch in width. It also mentions that the brass hooks were "riveted to the straps." The waist belt also became 2 inches wide to support the new rifle cartridge box. From that time on the pouch and belt appears in several inventories, but it is no longer mentioned in the *Ordnance Manual* of 1861. The expanding hollow-based Minié bullet adopted in 1855 had made the cartridge standard and rendered the pouch obsolete.

REFERENCES

- ¹ Raven's Duck is a type of sail cloth.
- ² *The Papers of Henry Bouquet*, Vol. II, Harrisburg, 1951, pp. 88-89.
- ³ *Pennsylvania in the War of the Revolution*, Vol. II, Harrisburg, 1880, p. 392.
- ⁴ Francis Bannerman catalog, New York, 1913, p. 131.
- ⁵ William Duane, *A Hand Book for Riflemen*, Philadelphia, 1813, p. 99.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 42.
- ⁷ Ray Riling, *The Powder Flask Book*, New Hope, Pa., 1953, p. 90.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*

MILITARY DRESS

Texas Rangers, 1884

Plate No. 169

At the close of the Mexican War the State of Texas, no longer an independent republic administering its own cures on its unique frontier ailments, bowed its head somewhat reluctantly to United States policy. Texas differed from other states at admission to the Union . . . the Indians had not been removed from the boundaries, and still imposed a threat to the fringe settlements and ranchers. While the new state government insisted that the Indian problem be taken care of by Texas agencies and under Texas leadership at federal expense they were immediately informed that Texas could not be dealt with in such a special way.

As a result the federal Indian policy and a system of federal forts, widely spaced and inadequately manned, were set along the frontier from the Rio Grande to the Red River. The Washington-appointed Indian agents had little more bargaining power than the power of persuasion, and persuasion was a mighty ineffective weapon against the fierce Comanches. These Lords of the Plains had bitter memories of a freedom and a way of life that had to do with the buffalo . . . and which had been violently interrupted by the hated *tejanos*! Indeed the United States Government had an almost hopeless task in trying to control the Comanche!

And so the Texas Rangers were called out but a few times during Governor Pease's administration. But the next governor, Hardin R. Runnels, advanced the Rangers to a higher position and gave them the leader that was needed. . . . John S. Ford.¹ Pease had sent the Rangers into minor skirmishes. . . . Runnels sent them fighting over a thousand-mile frontier.

The exploits of Rip Ford and his Rangers are a saga themselves. They went to meet the Comanches on their own grounds, and a major engagement with Iron Jacket's warriors resulted in a victory for the Rangers and ultimately in the removal of all wild Texas Indians to country north of the Red River. The year 1859 marked the infamous Cortinas War on the Mexican border, in which R. P. Ford's Rangers quelled this short but savage conflict.

The Civil War caused an almost total cessation of Ranger activity, and for nine years after the War the Rangers were non-existent. This was the era of the corrupt Texas State Police under E. J. Davis during the so-called Reconstruction. Davis, a carpetbag Republican, was elected because the Confederates had been disfranchised, and their former negro slaves had been enfranchised. This period of Texas history is a black one, and is better forgotten. (1870-1874)

In 1874 the legislature created two distinct military forces for the protection of the frontier and the

suppression of lawlessness. The Frontier Battalion, commanded by Major John B. Jones was designed to control the Indian front on the West. What was known as the Special Force of Rangers was sent to Southwest Texas with the primary purpose of suppressing the bandit troubles on the Mexican border. The commander of this force was Captain L. H. McNelly.²

The story of the Texas Rangers from this point on reads like a novel from the pens of all the prolific writers of western drama and adventure. Names, like Lee Hall, John Armstrong, John B. Jones, June Peak, George W. Baylor, George W. Arrington . . . and a host of others were linked with names of outlaws and badmen that have become legend. . . . John Wesley Hardin, Sam Bass, King Fisher, and other lesser ones.

The Rangers of 1884 that I show in this drawing are typical of the force during the 70's and 80's. The muzzle-loading six-shooter and rifle are now relics of the past. The Colt peacemaker and the Winchester have given the Texas frontier new firepower and accuracy. . . . and the Rangers were not the *last* to become proficient in their use. The Ranger on the left has a seven inch barrel Colt slung on his cartridge belt, next to the ever-present sheath-knife. The other three wear the handier shorter-barreled models, with either the 4" or 5½ inch barrels. The smooth-shaven Ranger in the center carries an 1873 model Winchester carbine, caliber 44-40. The same shells fit both carbine and six-shooter. The man at the right with his stag-gripped Colt butt-forward on his left hip has an 1873 Winchester rifle with octagon barrel. All firearms shown here were the same caliber so ammunition would be readily interchangeable among the men in a fight.

The trousers on the man at the right are duck brush pants with reinforced seat and legs of canvas. The other three wear Levis, now almost universally worn wherever men, horses, and cattle are thrown together. Vests are worn by almost every outdoorsman, and these vests are from photographs of Texas Rangers of this period. Shirts are wool flannel, and have not reached the button-all-the-way-down-the-front stage. Hats, boots, spurs, cartridge belts and holsters are from my collection, as are revolvers, knives, and rifles. The saddle in the foreground is one that hangs in my saddledshed. . . . in almost perfect condition; it was made in Texas in the late 1860's or early 70's, and was the type used extensively during this period. It's three-quarter seat, exposed stirrup leathers, narrow A-fork tree, wide stirrups, and two mohair cinches are characteristic of this era. The bit shown is a civilian one, patterned after the 1863 Army model, but

with minor design differences. The chaps on the background figure are the forerunners of the batwing chap, and are correct for the period of the drawing. These chaps are in my collection and were owned and worn by a Texas Tanager until 1892, as were the OK spurs on this same man's heels (also in my collection). This man's shirt is double-breasted with a shield-front, at its height of popularity in the 80's. The boots

with the mule-ear pulls worn by the figure at the left were made in 1884 by Justin for my grandfather, Henry Steffen.

Randy Steffen

1. Walter Prescott Webb: *The Texas Rangers, A Century of Frontier Defense*, Boston 1935, p. 148.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 233.

Gorham's Rangers

Plate No. 170

It was 4 October 1750. Over three years were yet to pass before an amateur officer of the rag-tag Virginia militia, a young gentleman named George Washington, would seek fame and find sorrow along the forest trail to the forks of the Ohio. In the Hampshire Grants, one Robert Rogers was nineteen, had seen the results of Indian raiding, but had yet to meet his first hostile Indian.

In the *Boston Weekly News Letter* an advertisement challenged:

"All Gentlemen Volunteers and Others That have a mind to serve his Majesty King GEORGE the Second, for a limited Time in the Independent Companies of Rangers now in Nova-Scotia, may apply to Lieutenant Alexander Collender, at Mr. Jonas Leonard's, at the Sign of the Lamb at the South End of Boston, where they shall be kindly entertained, enter into present Pay, and have good Quarters, and when they join their respective Companies at Hallifax, shall be completely clothed in blue Broad-Cloth, receive Arms, Accoutrements, Provisions, and all other Things necessary for a Gentleman Ranger:..." The broadside closed with discreet mention of bounty money for Indian scalps.

Nova Scotia was the Malaya of that period. Theoretically, there had been peace since the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) ended King George's War. In fact, however, constant guerrilla warfare stewed and simmered around the British outposts in that area. For such operations, rangers were obviously necessary; the British--by popular tradition, militarily unimaginative--had provided them.

Extensive research in the state papers of Nova Scotia (a project now sporadically under way) will be necessary to establish the complete history of these rangers. From material so far received, they appear to have begun as the Nova Scotia Ranging Company, commanded by John Goreham (or, Gorham), which was organized from qualified woodsmen among the New England troops which Governor Shirley sent to Annapolis Royal in 1743. Its personnel reportedly included a good many Cape Cod Indians and it would appear, the captain's younger brother, Joseph Goreham. Two more companies were subsequently formed (dates as yet unknown) from the best men of other

New England units in Nova Scotia. Goreham's, however, remained "the old company," and set the standards of the service.

In 1749, Goreham's company--and, to judge from the recruiting announcement previously quoted, the two others also--was placed on the Nova Scotia Establishment, thereby becoming a regular unit of the British Army. This fact makes the Nova Scotia Rangers unique; only Hopkin's short-lived Queen's Rangers (1762-63) and possibly Oglethorpe's earlier mounted Georgia Rangers ever achieved the same status. These Nova Scotia companies served "King GEORGE the Second"; they were royal troops, not provincials; and they undoubtedly took upon themselves some of the airs and smartness of regulars. Also in 1749, Joseph Goreham was commissioned a lieutenant in his brother's company.¹

By 1758, Joseph Goreham commanded his own company, probably succeeding his older brother, either dead or retired. That same year, he distinguished himself at Louisbourg. The next year, his company was one of the six ranger companies that Wolf took to Quebec. By that time, he was frequently referred to as "Major Goreham." Obviously the most efficient of the ranger captains with that expedition, he frequently functioned as a task force commander during the rest of the Canadian campaign. His services were duly rewarded. In 1761, he was commissioned a major in the regular British service--the reward that Rogers sought and repeatedly missed.

From approximately 1761 into 1764 (the dates are variously given), Goreham is spoken of as commanding "The Corps of Rangers," apparently a special unit made up of his own and several other independent ranger companies--sometimes referred to as being "embodied" as a regiment of light infantry. The *Army Lists* carried them as the "North American Rangers." Accurate information is scanty; in 1761 we know that Goreham wrote Amherst in regard to two ranging companies in Nova Scotia. Many of their officers were unfit for duty because of hard service and wounds; an exception was the intriguing "The Eldest 2d Lieut. of the 2d Compy. is the Marquis de Comte de Gravena, never did any duty, is unfit for the service..."² During 1762, part or all of the Nova



Texas Rangers, 1884



Rangers 1763

Officer 1763

Gotham's Rangers

Ranger 1739

Scotia Ranging Companies (along with others from the American colonies; Isaac and Israel Putnam being amongst the officers) were involved in the expedition against Havana. At its conclusion, the surviving rangers were drafted into various British regiments; Goreham and his officers returned to America and set about recruiting. The new unit seems to have had a strength of little more than one company, though deserter descriptions still refer to it as "His Majesty's Corps of Rangers." Elements of it, either serving with or drafted into the 17th Foot, took part in the fighting around Detroit during Pontiac's Rebellion. The Corps was disbanded sometime in 1763-64. Though Goreham had received extensive land grants in Nova Scotia, he had impoverished himself in the royal service. By 1775, creditors pressed him on all sides, but his services were eventually again remembered—in 1782 he became lieutenant governor of Newfoundland. He died about 1790.

* * *

The first description of the uniform of Goreham's Rangers—after the blue broadcloth of 1750—comes in the Loudoun papers where an entry for 15-30 January 1757 states, "The Irregulars in Nova Scotia are Payed on the Regular Troops are clothed by the Board of Trade and have Leather Caps. They have powder-horns in place of Cartridge Boxes." Recruiting advertisements for that year offer merely "a new, good full suit of Cloaths," with no mention of uniforms; Captain Knox, in Nova Scotia, noted that the rangers there wore ordinary clothing "cut short." But, in May 1759, Knox entered in his journal: "The rangers have got a new uniform clothing; the ground is of black ratteen or frize, lapelled and cuffed with blue; here follows a discription of their dress; a waistcoat with sleeves; a short jacket without sleeves; only arm-holes and wings to the shoulders (in like manner as the Grenadiers and Drummers of the army) white metal buttons, linen or canvas drawers, with a blue skirt or petticoat of stuff, made with a waistband and one button; this is open before and does not quite extend to their knees; a pair of leggins of the same color with their coat, which reach up to the middle of the thighs (without flaps) and from the calf of the leg downward they button like spatter-dashes; with this active dress they wear blue bonnets, and, I think, in great measure resemble our Highlanders." (This outfit, which resembled the light infantry dress ordered by Amherst for the coming campaign, undoubtedly was worn by all six of the ranger companies with Wolfe. The skirt must have been for warmth on boat expeditions or while waiting in ambush. It could be quickly detached for movement through brush. The leggins—which all the figures in our plate wear—were a modification of Indian gear; made of doubled layers of woolen cloth, they gave the legs both more freedom of action and better protection than the regulation spatterdashes afforded. English regiments frequently adopted them for wear in the field. Incidentally, neither white man nor Indian wore buckskin when wool

was available.) Green boughs in the hats were a standard English recognition signal.

Two years later (1761), five members of Major Goreham's Company of Rangers deserted from Fort Frederick. "The above Persons," said the deserter description printed in the *Boston News-Letter*, "were clothed in the Uniform of the Company, viz. Coats, red turn'd up with brown, with brown Capes and brown Insides, which may be worn either Side out; Waistcoats of the brown Colour; Linnen Drawes; leather Jockey-Caps, with Oak-Leaf or Branch painted on the left Side..." This uniform, as shown on our plate, would be adaptable to either field or garrison duty. The equipment shown follows light infantry practice, itself adapted from ranger usage. The survival of the leather caps mentioned by Loudoun earlier is interesting. The one worn by the officer is copied from a contemporary portrait by Copley of Captain George Scott. (Scott, possibly the outstanding ranger officer of the French and Indian War, commanded the Rangers with Wolfe's army in 1759. He remains, however, a very little-known figure, who deserves some intensive study.)

One more possible uniform is mentioned in a description of a sergeant deserter in 1763: "Had on when he went away a red Coat, Waistcoat, and Breeches, with Silver Vellum Button Holes to the Coat and Waistcoat." This sounds as if the rangers had been getting very regulation in their dress, though privates deserting during the same period wore nondescript civilian clothing. There is also a note that the new uniforms, apparently for the troops raised after the Havana expedition, were to be without lace.

* * *

Goreham's Rangers were in the royal service for approximately fifteen years. The British with whom they served in Nova Scotia gave them a certain degree of respect, though shocked by their habit of scalping Frenchmen as well as Indians—bounty money was bounty money to the New Englanders. They did not get along so well with Roger's men—one or two skull-cracking brawls resulted when the two outfits met. Despite their long and skillful service, Goreham and his men are almost unknown today. Nova Scotia was a far-off frontier. Duty there got little praise or publicity, though rangers died just as hard—and unpleasantly—as along the Hudson Valley. This plate and article are an attempt to revive the memory of these early American professional soldiers.

1. *The Canadian Historical Review*, IV, 1923.

2. *A Servant of the Crown*. Norreys J. O'Connor, 155.

3. *Historical Journal of the Campaigns in North America*, Vol. 1, Knox, p. 307.

4. *Across the Wide Missouri*. Bernard DeVoto, 162-63.

FREDERICK RAY
LT. COL. JOHN R. ELTING

See also: *The American Units of the British Regular Army: 1664-1772*, Thesis by Lt. Col. William A. Foote, Western Texas College, 1959; and *Lord Loudoun in North America and Military Affairs in North America, 1748-1760*, both by Stanley M. Pargellis.

The Brunswick Regiment of Dragoons, 1776-1783

Plate No. 171

Colonel Fawcett, the British officer charged with the purchase of German mercenaries, professed himself pleased with one of his acquisitions, the Brunswick Regiment of Dragoons. Not one of them was drunk as he embarked them on 13 March 1776 for transport to North America.

The Dragoons formed a part of the Brunswick contingent under Major General Riedesel ("Red Hazel" to the irreverent British private). Despite their cavalry uniforms and equipment, they were taken into the British service as infantry, "His Majesty of Great Britain" agreeing to provide horses if the future developments demanded that they be mounted.

On arrival in Quebec, the regiment appears to have numbered some 336, all ranks¹. It went south with Burgoyne in 1777, still on foot, about 227 strong. On 16 August, Lt. Col. Baum with some 150 of his dragoons—forming the backbone of a mixed detachment sent out to gather horses and supplies—were overrun near Bennington by American forces under Stark. The rest were gathered in when Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga. Horses of a sort had meanwhile been found for about thirty of them and so, for a brief time after the Battle of Freeman's Farm, they were used to patrol the rear of the British army.

During their period of captivity, efforts were made to enlist them in the American army—particularly by Armand, who was recruiting energetically for his "legion." Some Brunswickers joined it, many of them deserting back to the British as soon as possible.

Despite all disaster, the regiment (then stationed in Canada) had a strength of 282 men in 1779, including men left there in 1777, new replacements, and exchanged or escaped prisoners. There also seems to have been a detachment of them (made up of exchanged prisoners taken at Bennington) on Long Island, where Riedesel commanded after being exchanged.²

Generally speaking, the uniform of this regiment is well known. Our plate illustrates, however, several unusual features. One major source of disagreement has been the blue and white striped trousers shown on the dragoon in field uniform. Riedesel states flatly that he secured these for all the Brunswick troops, beginning with the dragoons and his own regiment of infantry. Old "Red Hazel" was considered a reliable officer; his word should be good. (Furthermore, some little watercolors—apparently done by a contemporary jack-artist—inserted into a copy of Riedesel's *Memoirs* in the New York Public Library show Brunswick infantry in such clothing³.) It is probable that these trousers were used for marching, drill, and fatigue. The regular dragoon uniform would be worn for ceremonies. From all accounts, none of which are too clear, it appears that the dragoons marched to Bennington in leather breeches and boots. This, however, would have been only natural, since they hoped to secure mounts there.

During this period, the custom in the armies of the various German principalities was for infantry officers only to wear gorgets. Possibly the Brunswick dragoon officers assumed it because they were serving dismounted.

The drummer's uniform is taken from a water color by Company member Herbert Knotel. Whether the drummers were all or in part negroes in 1776 is not certain. Colored musicians were fashionable, and many German regiments had them. An account of the regiment after its return to Germany notes that "Among them were some black men enlisted by General Riedesel as drummers."⁴ Note the drummer's silver dog collar; this appears to have been a widespread military custom, the kettle drummer of the British 3d (King's Own) Hussars still wears one with his full dress uniform.

The one uncertain feature of this plate is the guidon carried by the underofficer. According to Davis⁵, the regimental colors were left behind, only four small blue guidons being brought to America. These were described as blue, ornamented in gold; one side bore the Brunswick coat of arms and the other a white horse on a green field against a red background as shown here. The spearhead is copied from that of a Brunswick grenadier regiment, and the staff from an original in the West Point Museum; the shape and size of the guidon are based on a contemporary Prussian dragoon guidon. (According to Friedrich Schirmer, the outstanding authority on North German uniforms for this period, there is no known existing picture or description of the dragoon's regimental standard. A picture dated 1790 shows the general pattern of this guidon, plus a large black cross.) Incidentally, these guidons escaped the Americans after Saratoga. Stories vary as to detail, but it appears that Riedesel ordered the staffs of all the Brunswick flags burnt and the colors themselves sewn into a mattress. To Gates, he reported the colors burnt along with the staffs. Later, the mattress was smuggled through the American lines into New York.⁶

After the Revolution, the regiment returned to Brunswick. Its beloved Duke, however, specified that only able-bodied native Brunswickers with good service records were wanted; the rest could stay in America.

Frederick T. Chapman
Lt. Col. John R. Elting

1. *Letters from America, 1776-79*. R. W. Pettingill (translator), Houghton-Mifflin, 1924, page xix.

2. *Revolution in America, Confidential Letters and Journals 1776-1784*, of Adjutant General Major Baurmeister of the Hessian Forces. B. A. Uhlendorf (translator), Rutgers University Press, 1957, page 429.

3. *Memoirs and Letters and Journals of Major General Riedesel*. Max von Eelking, J. Munsell, Albany, 1868, page 101.

4. *American History From German Archives*. J. G. Rosengarten, Lancaster, Penna, 1904, page 35.

5. *Regimental Colors of the War of the Revolution*. Gherardi Davis, New York, 1907.

6. *The Hessians in the Revolution*. E. J. Lowell, Harper and Brothers, 1884, page 181. See also 3, above.

Continental Infantry, 1778-1783

Plate No. 172

In August 1782, General Nathanael Greene, watching beside the deathbed of British rule in the Southern Colonies, once more spoke his mind on the neglect his command was suffering. Beef, when it was available, was "perfect carrion"—but even worse was the state of half his troops "entirely naked, with nothing but a breech cloth about them and never came out of their tents, and the rest were ragged as wolves." (A subordinate added the final grievance, "We have not had a drop of Spirits in Camp for more than a month.")¹

This was one of the last choruses of a continual theme song of suffering which underlay the Revolution. As the American Army filed into its winter camp at Valley Forge, Wayne had written, "Not one Whole Shirt to a Brigade. For God's sake if you can't give us anything else—give us linen that we may be Enabled to Rescue the poor Worthy fellows from the Vermin which are now Devouring them." ² Some hundreds we thought prudent to Deposit some six feet under Ground who have Died of a Disorder produced by want of Clothing." Officers were "Covered with Rags and Crawling with Vermin."³ A French officer notes, "I saw officers, at a grand parade—mounting guard in a sort of dressing gown, made of an old blanket or woolen bed cover."⁴ Prisoners and deserters from Washington's forces were described as "almost naked and generally without shoes—an old, dirty blanket around them attached by a leather belt around the waist."⁵ Steuben noted that the cartridge boxes were in bad shape and short supply, pieced out with powder horns and tin boxes.

The same story was told by Sullivan in 1777—"the whole without watch coats, one half of them without blankets and more than one third without shoes and stockings and breeches and many without shirts. Indeed the officers in sundry cases are destitute of proper clothing, some being almost naked"—and again in 1779 on his return from the Iroquois country—"I have neither shoes, shirts, Blankets, hats, stockings, nor leggings to relieve their necessities."⁶ Even the elegant Wayne found himself compelled to try to make three short coats out of three old battered long ones, and spend his own money to clothe his men.

These miseries had many sources. At the worst of Valley Forge, the patriotic merchants of Boston would not sell any of their plentiful supply of clothing to the Army except at a profit of 1,000 to 1,800 percent, cash on the barrel head.⁷ Once secured, stocks of clothing were likely to be lost, mislaid, or stolen; poor roads, incompetent quartermasters, and a shortage of transport all hampered supply. "Some thousands of suits of clothing complete has been sent to Peek's

Kill. There many lay—a rotten when so many brave men are Fresing. Ware is the fault."⁸ Connecticut troops at Valley Forge were well uniformed, as were the Pennsylvanians in 1779, while soldiers from other states went half naked. Both states, however, refused to share their surplus.

There was also lack of common sense in the issue of available clothing. As Colonel William Davis wrote Governor Jefferson on 25 January 1781, reporting another American column reduced to breechcloths and odd blankets,"—a mistaken system has too long prevailed in the mode of clothing our men. Saving and preserving are almost as important as supplying in the first instance. A coat properly patched is nearly as useful as a new one. Yet we have nothing given us for the necessary purpose of repairing—instead of mending old clothes we are always asking for new. A good pair of stockings is given to a naked soldier today; he has no shoes and wears them out by the next week and in a fortnight when the stockings are gone he got his shoes. Or perhaps he got breeches but no lining to them, a new coat or fashionable hat but no shirt—or if he has he is without breeches. . . ."

Finally, soldiers were frequently careless of their new uniforms; "the Rogues and whores that went with the baggage" might pilfer it; or the soldier trade articles of it for drink. But beyond all this, America was a rough place for campaigning. Cloth and shoes wore out faster than in Europe. Englishman and German mercenary, too, often went ragged.

The Continentals shown here may have been well clothed—or even smartly uniformed—when the current campaign began. Now, they have only fragments of patched clothing. The officer in the foreground wears "country boots"—pieces of cloth folded around the leg and tied at knee and ankle, much like Indian leggings.

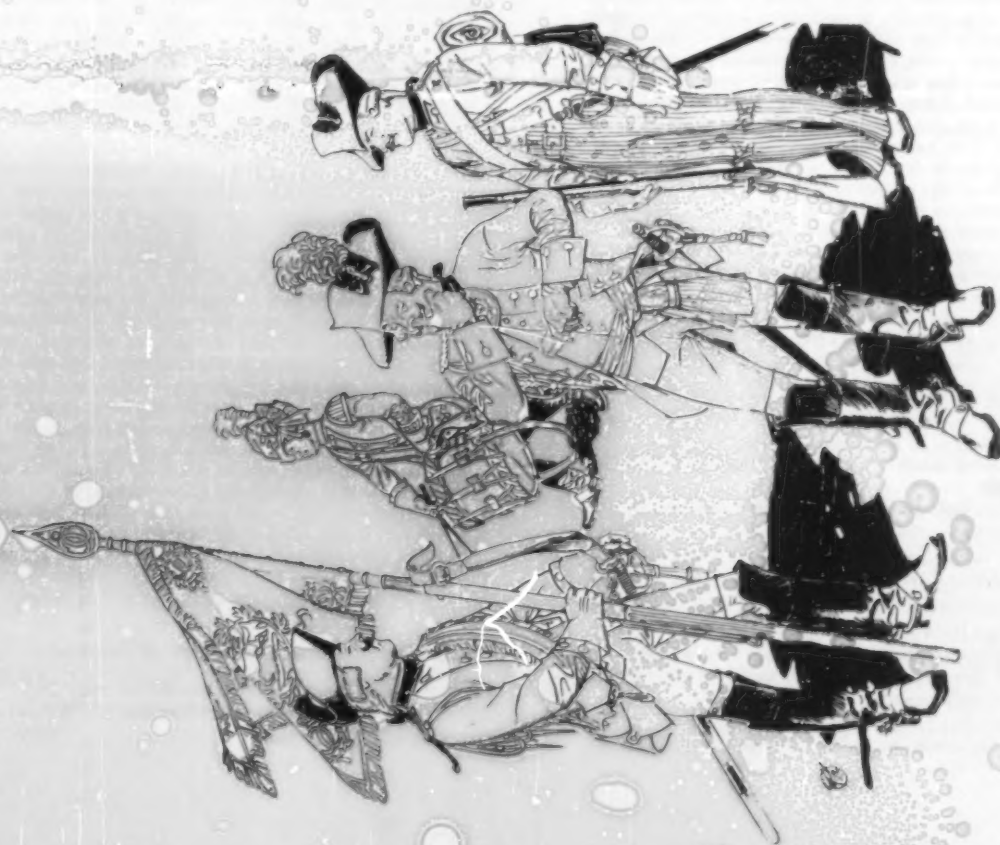
Nevertheless, these are fighting men—by now tough, professional soldiers. They need no breeches to beat the British.

H. Charles McBarron
Lt. Col. John R. Elting

1. *Triumph of Freedom*. Miller, Boston, 1948, page 678.
2. *Ibid.*, pg. 221.
3. *The Marquis de LaFayette*, Vol. I. Tower, Philadelphia, 1926, page 323.
4. *Annals of Philadelphia*, Vol. II. Watson, Philadelphia, 1845, page 267.
5. *Journals of the Sullivan Expedition*. Cook, New York, 1887, page 338.
6. *Triumph of Freedom*, page 223.
7. *Revolutionary Letters to Col. Pickering*, Vol. 43M. Essex Inst. Hist. Collect., Salem, 1908, page 7.
8. *Virginia State Papers*, Vol. I. Richmond, page 462.



Continental Infantry, 1778-1783



The Brunswick Regiment of Dragoons, 1776-1783

Dragoon in service uniform

Officer

Drummer

Non-Commissioned Officer

COLLECTOR'S FIELD BOOK

CIVIL WAR PUP TENTS

Through the interest of COMPANY Fellows Sidney C. Kerksis, Francis A. Lord and Ernest W. Peterkin the following data on shelter tents of the American Civil War has been assembled from several sources. This in turn is offered to Fieldbook readers as reference material.

The following specifications from G. O. 60 Quartermaster General's Office, 12 December 1864, as corrected 1 February 1865, gives an excellent description of the shelter tent as issued in the latter days of the war.

Description of Shelter Tent

Dimensions of each half tent when finished:

Length, (measured along foot or top) 5 feet 6 inches

Width, (measured along seam) 5 feet 5 inches

To be made of cotton duck 33½ inches wide, clear of all imperfections, and weighing eight ounces to the linear yard.

To be made in a workmanlike manner in every respect, with strong, well-worked button holes, made with waxed thread of sufficient size and strength to make them durable. All other holes to have good strong grommets well worked in them with waxed thread or twine.

Top Buttons—Nine metallic (tinned, galvanized, or zinc) buttons, in a line parallel to, and four inches from, the upper edge or head of each half tent, at intervals of eight inches from centre to centre, the extreme buttons being one inch from the side edges or ends of each half tent.

End Buttons—Seven metallic (tinned, galvanized, or zinc) buttons, in a line parallel to, and four inches from, *each side edge* or end of the half tent, at intervals of eight inches from centre to centre, the first button of the row being three inches from the lower edge or foot of half tent.

Button holes on each half tent, twenty-three in number, along the upper and side edges, at a distance of a half inch therefrom, opposite the buttons of their own half, and corresponding in position to the buttons on the other half tent.

Three loops to each half tent, at lower corners and foot of seam, of six-thread Manila line, small, soft, and pliable.

Guy lines, one with each half tent, six feet ten inches long, of six-thread Manila line, small, soft, and pliable.

The pole and rope holes must be placed so as to correspond when the half tents are put together.

The corner and stay pieces to be made of same material as the tent, and to be four inches square.

If the tent be sewed by machine, it must be a lock-stitch machine.

No force should be used to bring the tent to its required measurements.

That workhorse of Civil War reference books, *Hardtack and Coffee*, lends us the following description of the development and use of the shelter tent as well as the illustrative material.

The tents thus far described I have referred to as used largely by the troops before they left the State. But there

was another tent, the most interesting of all, which was used exclusively in the field, and that was *Tente d' Abri*—the *Dog* or *Shelter Tent*.

Just why it is called the shelter tent I cannot say, unless on the principle stated by the Rev. George Ellis for calling the pond on Boston Common a Frog Pond, *viz*: because there are no frogs there. So there is little shelter in this variety of tent. But about that later. I can imagine no other reason for calling it a dog tent than this, that when one is pitched it would only comfortably accommodate a dog, and a small one at that. This tent was invented late in 1861 or early in 1862. I am told it was made of light duck at first, then of rubber, and afterwards of duck again, but I never saw one made of anything heavier than cotton drilling. This was the tent of the rank and file. It did not come into general use till after the Peninsular Campaign. Each man was provided with a *half-shelter*, as a single piece was called, which he was expected to carry on the march if he wanted a tent to sleep under. I will describe these more fully. One I recently measured is five feet two inches long by four feet eight inches wide, and is provided with a single row of buttons and button-holes on three sides, and a pair of holes for stake loops at each corner.

By means of the buttons and button-holes two or more of these half-shelters could be buttoned together, making a very complete roofing. There are hundreds of men that came from different sections of the same State, or from different States, who joined their resources in this manner, and to-day through this accidental association they are the warmest of personal friends, and will continue so while they live. It was not usual to pitch these tents every night when the army was on the march. The soldiers did not waste their time and strength much in that way. If the night was clear and pleasant, they lay down without roof-shelter of any kind; but if it was stormy or a storm was threatening when the order came to go into camp for the night, the shelters were then quite generally pitched.

This operation was performed by the infantry in the following simple way: two muskets with bayonets fixed were stuck erect into the ground the width of a half shelter apart. A guy rope which went with every half-shelter was stretched between the trigger guards of the muskets, and over this as a ridge-pole the tent was pitched in a twinkling. Artillery men pitched theirs over a horizontal bar supported by two uprights. This framework was split out of fence-rails, if fence-rails were to be had conveniently; otherwise, saplings were cut for the purpose. It often happened that men would throw away their shelters during the day, and take their chances with the weather, or of finding cover in some barn, or under the brow of some overhanging rock, rather than be burdened with them. In summer, when the army was not in proximity to the enemy, or was lying off recuperating, as the Army of the Potomac did a few weeks after the Gettysburg campaign, they would pitch their shelters high enough to get a free circulation of air beneath, and to enable them to build bunks or cots a foot or two above the ground. If the camp was not in the woods, it was common to build a bower of branches over the tents, to ward off the sun.¹

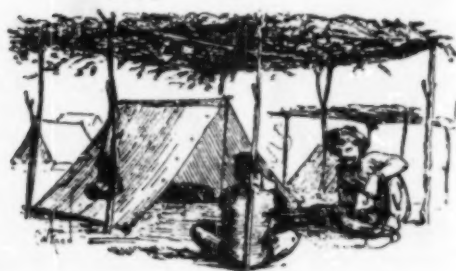
From the post war writings of Wilbur F. Hinman, wartime Lieutenant Colonel of the 65th Ohio Infantry, we note the issuance of two further varieties of shelter tents.



THE DOG OR SHELTER TENT.



SHELTERS, AS SOMETIMES PITCHED IN SUMMER.



SHADED SHELTERS.

Early in the morning the members of the 200th Indiana received their shelter tents. To each man was given a piece of stout cotton cloth, about six feet long and four feet wide. Along one edge half of them had a row of buttons, and the other half had button holes to correspond. It took two—one of each kind—to make a tent, in which two men were to live and have their being.

In the scramble to get possession of the newest things in war—this masterpiece of military invention—the halves were distributed in the most miscellaneous manner, without any reference to the buttons and the button-holes. It will be readily understood that it was indispensable for two men to “go snacks” on the tent business, and that “pards” must have two pieces that would go together.¹

One edition of the pup tent was provided with a three-cornered piece of cloth, which, after the tent was pitched, was quickly joined on with buttons and entirely closed one end, contributing much to the well being of the dwellers within. In many of those issued to the troops this convenient part was wanting, and the lack was supplied, as far as possible, by a rubber blanket, or a change piece of cloth picked up with this end—that is, the end of the pup-tent—in view. Sometimes a night raid among the muledrivers would yield a very serviceable fragment ruthlessly cut from a wagon-cover.²

Hinman also reconstructed how the pup tent got its unofficial but lasting name and gives details as to how it was carried and a description of a large encampment of soldiers so equipped.

Taunts and scoffs and jeers, and words of harsher sound, were hurled at that poor little tent. Some of the boys crowed and clucked after the manner of fowls, while others whistled at Shorty and Si as if to call out the dogs from the kennel. It was immediately christened the “pup” tent, and till the end of the war was known only by that name, through all the armies, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande. Often the ridicule conveyed by this time was intensified by putting in another letter and making it “purp.”³

... so when Si, that morning, rolled up his overcoat and half of a pup tent inside his blanket, tied the ends together, threw it over his shoulder, and marched off at a swinging gait, he was justly entitled to be classed as a veteran—a soldier, in the fullest significance of the word.⁴

As the army halted, toward evening, the great bivouac presented a scene of unwonted activity. There was a general rush to put up the new tents. The adjacent woods literally warmed with men in quest of forked sticks and poles, the demand for which quite exhausted the supply. Then in a few minutes, as if by magic, the little patches of white cloth dotted field and hillside, far and near. For fifty thousand men there were twenty-five thousand of them. It was almost as if an untimely snow-storm had whitened the earth.⁵

Two shelter tents are exhibited at Gettysburg as Civil War relics. Folded and in cases, they defy comparison with the above information but perhaps we may later prevail upon the owners of the Rosensteel Collection or the Jenny Wade museum to yield the measurements of these specimens.

Robert L. Miller

¹ John D. Billings, *Hardtack and Coffee*, Boston 1829, p. 51-54.

² Wilber F. Hinman, *Corporal Si Klegg and His Pard*, Cleveland, 1887, p. 577.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 590.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 583.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 580.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 585.



UNIDENTIFIED MILITARY ARTIFACT

Member A. H. Albert recently asked me the nature of the metallic item illustrated. As its purpose is quite unknown to me, it is described and pictured in the hope that some member of THE COMPANY can shed some light on the matter.

The item, which is of copper or some cupric alloy, is made like a pill box, 8 mm thick, 22 mm in diameter, has a wire “shank” on the reverse side. The letters have apparently been applied with

a metal stamp. The item was found on the site of Fort Washington, Ohio, now Cincinnati.

Sydney C. Kerksis



A SABER OF GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM

The accompanying illustration depicts an English Eighteenth Century sword with a thirty-seven inch long single edged, unmarked, three channeled blade. The sword has a spiraled walnut grip with a bronze dogs-head pommel and a pierced and branched guard. Its original leather scabbard, 30½ inches long, accompanies the weapon and is impressed with burnished patterns.

I acquired the sword in 1953 from the Parke-Bernet Galleries of New York City where it was described thus:

This sword is understood to have been sold by the Putnam family of Hemstead, N. H., to William Lay of West Newbury, Mass., who in turn sold it to Warren Emerson Sargent, Jr., also of West Newbury. The latter then presented it to the Reverend Glen Gillery Morse in 1912.

The saber was put up for auction by the brother of Reverend Morse upon the latter's death.

I have collected swords and sabers for over forty years, but few that I have owned have impressed me as much as this one. This is a genuine weapon,



Photographs by Irving Browning

heavy and useful, rather than a light dress saber designed to augment a drawing-room uniform. One of the bronze branches is missing and the knuckle guard is out of shape from having been struck by another heavy bladed weapon.

The supposed original owner, Major General Israel Putnam, was born in Salem, Massachusetts on 7 January 1718, one of a family of twelve children, of which he was the eleventh. The progenitors emigrated from Southern England in 1634 and settled in the area of Salem now known as Danvers. The original family name was spelled "Puttenham." Israel's early education was limited, as public schools were uncommon and private schools, few in number to begin with, were not for the average man's children.

The General-to-be was twenty-one years old when he married Hannah Pope, also a native of Salem, and began his family of four sons and six

daughters. One year after the marriage the Putnams emigrated to the town of Pomfret, Connecticut, where Israel gained a reputation as one of the best farmers in the whole county.

In 1755 the war known in history as the "French and Indian War," began. On the outbreak of this struggle Putnam received a Captaincy in a company of provincial volunteers from Connecticut, and participated in the operations against Crown Point, a fortified point on Lake Champlain.

At about this time the careers of Putnam and the famed Robert Rogers of the Rangers crossed and Israel became, in 1756, a Captain of Rangers.

In 1758, in command of his Connecticut provincials, he joined the Amhercromby expedition against Ticonderoga, was promoted to major and again joined Rogers' Rangers. Captured in the expedition against Fort Edward he was sent to Ticonderoga, rescued from torture by a French officer and sent to Montreal with other French prisoners. His release being secured by a fellow prisoner, Colonel Peter Schuyler, of the Jersey Blues, Putnam was in 1759 appointed Lieutenant Colonel of Fitch's 4th Connecticut Regiment and was with General Amherst at the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga.

In 1775 he answered the call for Continental militia at the head of a party of Connecticut "Continentalists" and joined the revolutionary armies at Cambridge. Later at Bunker Hill he was instrumental in fortifying the prominence which became the rallying point of the troops driven from Breed's Hill.

After the siege of Boston Congress organized a regular, or Continental, army, appointed George Washington of Virginia as "Commander in Chief" and provided for four Major Generalships for the

new force. Israel Putnam, in company with Charles Lee, Artemus Ward, and Philip Schuyler received one of the new appointments.

"Old Put" as he was familiarly known to his military contemporaries, had a record of Continental Army service marked by unquestioned personal bravery, and considerable military merit, but he suffered several reverses which lessened his military reputation and finally lost him his command. After the Battle of Princeton he was stationed in his home state, where in escaping from a party of British dragoons he made his famous mounted leap down an embankment, a feat familiar to many a generation of school children in after years through their illustrated readers and through the advertising of a well known brand of dyes.

In 1779 General Putnam assisted in fortifying West Point, N. Y., the importance of which he had previously recommended, but his health failed him in the following year and he left the army to resume civilian pursuits until his death ten years later at his home in Brooklyn, Connecticut.

Irving Browning



UNIDENTIFIED MILITARY BUTTON

Recently the button illustrated came into my possession, recovered from a position occupied by the Confederates in 1862. It is not listed in any work on American military buttons and inquiry to Member A. H. Albert, revealed that it is unknown to him.

The button is 18 mm in diameter, was heavily gilded and bears the backmarks "Steele & Johnson." The letters "HMA," above the stylized school building, indubitably represent the name of some ante-bellum military academy. There was one school with these initials, the Hillsborough Military Academy of North Carolina. However, the known buttons of this institution are quite different in design.

Any member of THE COMPANY who has any knowledge of the origin of this button is requested to communicate with me.

Sydney C. Kerkis



GAZETTE



Photograph by Edgar A. Wischnowski

WASHINGTON AREA PREVIEW

On 19 February, members of THE COMPANY in the Washington area and their guests were invited to a preview of the exhibition "Our Militia 1765-1865" at The Corcoran Gallery of Art. Prints in the showing, a selection from the Anne S. K. Brown Collection, were representative of the best in historic American military art. Some of the individual exhibits, such as the ink and watercolor sketches of New England light horse and dragoon militia about 1765 are unique and a rare privilege to see. The beautiful condition of these prints give them a life that helps reconstruct a colorful century of our military heritage.

Mrs. Brown, shown here at the Gallery with her print of the 1st Division, New York Artillery, 1841, a colored lithograph by F. J. Fritsch, welcomed the many members who took advantage of the preview invitation. Two other COMPANY Governors and Founding Members, Hermann W. Williams, Jr., Director of The Corcoran Gallery, and Frederick P. Todd, Director of the West Point Museum, joined in sponsoring the exhibition, shown in Washington 20 February-20 March and at West Point 2-30 April. A coated paper catalog listing the 78 items shown by artist, unit depicted, and genre, and illustrated with 10 reproductions in black and white was issued for the exhibition. Copies at \$1.00 may still be available from either

The Corcoran or the West Point Museum when this is published.

COPIES OF OUT-OF-PRINT ISSUES OF MC&H

A notice in the Spring 1959 COMPANY Bulletin Board by Member Charles E. Dornbusch put the spotlight on production of out-of-print material by the Xerox process. Members may recall that this method was suggested as an alternate way of obtaining back copies of the MC&H. Briefly stated, the procedure is to microfilm the material and then print it by the Xerox process. Printed material and line drawings may be readily reproduced; photographs and halftones do not, at present, reproduce clearly by this process.

University Microfilms, Inc., 313 North First street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, is a firm that specializes in this work. It has a microfilm of out-of-print issues of the MC&H. COMPANY members need only order a Xerox print of the required issues. While the "Gazette" is not usually used to improve the business of a commercial outfit, the disappointment of many late-joining members at not having full runs of the MC&H has been quite evident. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this opportunity to fill in the out-of-print issues should contact the firm direct.

TUSCON EXHIBITION SCHEDULED

Member Ray Brandes of Tucson, who has a book in the works on the frontier military posts of Arizona, has directed our attention to exhibitions of western americana which should be of interest to COMPANY members. The Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society in Tucson plans to feature an exhibition of General Adna R. Chaffee, including some of his original papers as well as pictures and personal items connected with his life, and following that expects to exhibit its own considerable collection of material on Lieutenant Charles B. Gatewood. Certainly persons interested in the early military history of the West will want to take notice of these two exhibitions and plan on viewing them.



U. S. Army Photographs

Many things are important in a soldier's life, some very practical and some so intangible or symbolic that a rational explanation of their importance almost defies explanation. In this latter class falls the organizational colors. Intrinsically, the worth of a cloth banner, no matter how ornate, is seldom great, but ideologically the flags of a soldier's country and organization have an incalculable value. This is true not only of the colors being currently carried by a unit at any given time, but perhaps even more true of the flags associated with the history and past accomplishments of a unit. For this reason it is always a pleasant task to report the discovery or recovery of historic colors by the present day descendant of an organization which has contributed to the military traditions of the nation.

The 1st Battle Group of the 20th Infantry (Sykes' Regulars), a unit whose lineage can be traced back to its organization as Company A, 2d Battalion, 11th Infantry in 1861, and which bears many a battle honor for service to the nation from the Civil War through World War II, has recently had the good fortune to recover two of the regiment's historic colors, a 45-star National flag and a Regimental color, both of the period 1898-1900.

The recovered flags have for a number of years reposed in the Alamo in San Antonio. Last July their existence was reported to the 1st Battle Group, now in the Panama Canal Zone. In the late Summer and Fall, efforts to recover them culminated in their return to the Battle Group at Forte Kobb, where they now rest to remind the present members of the organization of the past they must live up to.

Rowland P. Gill

★ ★ ★

Many of the customs and traditions now so well established in the armed services of the United States have by usage, or in many cases by deliberate intent, been adopted to commemorate associations between the forces of this country and those of its allies in past service. It is therefore interesting to note a bit about those of the United States' allies at the present time. We are grateful to Member Brigadier General Roland H. del Mar for sending us the following sketch of the *Carabinieri Corps*, an elite corps of the Italian Army whose members are so closely associated with those members of the American armed forces stationed in Italy as a part of NATO forces.

The *Corpo dei Carabinieri Reali* (Corps of Royal Carabineers) are over a hundred years old. Founded by King Victor Emanuel I on 13 July 1814 the Corps is the principal arm of the Army. And yet the "*Benemerita*" (as the *Carabinieri* are familiarly known to the people of Italy) are much more than soldiers, for their activities as an internal security force assure that a member of the corps will often-times be found doing much more than studying the art of war and preparing to defend his homeland.

It takes only a brief examination of the history of the corps to understand clearly that the services of the *Carabinieri* to Italy and to its people have been numerous.

In 1834 the Corps won its first award for valor when King Charles Albert conferred a gold medal for military valor upon a carabineer named Scapaccino who preferred to die rather than betray the oath of loyalty which he had taken.

On 30 April 1848 three squadrons of the corps, commanded by Major Negri di Saint Front and constituting King Charles Albert's escort valiantly charged the enemy at Pastrengo and successfully routed them. The charge won the Corps a Silver medal for military valor. Engaged in many battles between 1849 and 1859, the Carabinieri in the latter year participated in the liberation of Lombardy, for which services members of the corps were awarded 16 silver medals for military valor. After Italy became a united kingdom the Corps continued to give evidence of its service; in anti-brigandage campaigns and in the Africa campaigns of the latter part of the nineteenth century. In May 1915, during the First World War, the Corps while fighting in the trenches of Podgora added yet more glorious pages to the history of their country.

Lastly, during the Second World War one name alone stands out as a most lofty example of the spirit of duty and self-sacrifice: Culquabert. A group of Carabinieri, mobilized for combat, held out for three months with indomitable courage against an attack by very numerous enemy forces, carrying out audacious counter-offensive actions which beyond any doubt contributed to the resistance of the entire strong point. In the end, when the situation became critical, these Carabinieri set themselves solidly on the defence glacis and fought the enemy troops surrounding them in a bloody hand-to-hand battle. Fighting as one man and against great odds, they sacrificed their lives for their country. Remembered with reverence and above all with pride are the names of Sergeant Salvo d'Aquisto, Private Alberto La Rocca, Private Fulvio Sbarretta and Private Vittorio Marandola. All these men, on whom were later conferred posthumously the gold medal for military valour, stood their ground on the battlefield in the face of the enemy rifles, giving up their own lives in a spirit of sublime devotion to duty.

On the evening of 22 September 1943 a German soldier was killed at Palidoro owing to the chance explosion of an abandoned hand grenade. In order to avenge themselves of the hostile attitude adopted by the local population, the Germans captured 23 hostages and threatened to shoot them if the names of the perpetrators of the presumed crime were not revealed. With all the inhabitants of the town looking on, the hostages dug their own graves while the firing squad trained their rifles on them.



NATO AFSOUTH photo. Carabinieri Detail in service dress.

Then Sergeant Salvo d'Aquisto stepped forward and in a calm, steady voice declared that he was responsible for the presumed crime, thus fearlessly sacrificing his own life for those of the hostages.

We should mention, if only briefly, the activity carried on by the Corps in the struggle against brigandage. Even if this activity is not connected with the most important episodes in the political and military history of the nation, it has always necessitated, and still does necessitate, continual action every day of the year. On certain occasions it has been a veritable military campaign, no less bitter than actual warfare.

In this wreath of glory are set like shining gems the cross of "Cavaliere dell'Ordine Militare d'Italia" (Knight of the Military Order of Italy), the four gold medals, the three silver medals and the four bronze medals with which the Corps' flag has been decorated, the nineteen Military Order of Italy decorations, the sixty-four gold medals for military valour, the 2931 silver medals, the 5370 bronze medals and the 3032 crosses awarded for valour to the men of the Corps from its inception to the present day.

The duties of the Corps are to maintain public order, to ensure the safety and protection of the population and to safeguard property. Furthermore the Carabinieri ensure that the laws and rules of the state are observed and lend aid in cases of public or private disaster.

To carry out these duties the Corps has 6,000 headquarters all over Italy. Moreover, in order that it may cope with special requirements such as those connected with criminal investigations, "nuclei" have been set up and placed under the jurisdiction of the judicial authorities. These teams are equipped with the most modern equipment for the scientific detection of crime.

Other units, directly under the Ministry of Defense, carry out specific military police duties at army, navy and air force headquarters, while spe-

cialized units undertake the more delicate and important task of counter-espionage. A special unit known as "The President's Guards" performs security and ceremonial duties on the occasion of visits by the President of the Republic. Similar honor-guard duties are carried out by Carabinieri on foot, on horseback and in motor vehicles on the occasion of official ceremonies and trips by Italian and foreign personalities.

Captain Manlio Del Gaudio
Corps of Carabinieri

PUBLICATIONS

In the field of general military history, there are two recent publications which deserve considerable attention. Most ambitious as a publishing project and a delight to any student of American campaigns is the two-volume *West Point Atlas of American Wars* edited by Col. Vincent J. Esposito (Frederick Praeger, \$47.50). In these two large volumes are more than 400 three- and four-color maps covering the principal battles in America from the Louisbourg operations in 1745 through the Korean conflict in 1953. Opposite each map is a summation of the action depicted. From a teaching standpoint or for anyone wishing to gain a quick grasp of a battle or a campaign, these maps and their accompanying text are probably the finest aid ever developed. They will not, however, help the specialist interested in pinpointing the positions of an individual regiment or battery at close time intervals.

Since these maps were designed for the instruction of cadets at West Point, land operations have been stressed, and naval and air actions all but omitted. Emphasis has also been placed on the later, larger and more complex actions. Thus 16 pages of maps cover the wars prior to 1861, 148 are devoted to the Civil War, four complete the treatment of the Spanish-American War, and the remainder deal with the World Wars and Korea. Within its scope, however, the atlas presents a magnificent guide to American military operations. Now that it is generally available to the American public for the first time, it will, we feel, quickly become a standard reference work for all libraries.

The second volume of general military interest is *War in the Modern World* by Theodore Ropp

(Duke University Press, \$10.00). In this excellent volume war is considered in its broadest aspects, treating theories, technology, military organization, political and social implications. The modern world for Professor Ropp begins with the 15th century, and he has divided his material into three principal sections: the period from 1415 through Waterloo, the 19th century, and the wars of the 20th century. The text is clear and moves easily with well-reasoned summaries and syntheses, an achievement of considerable magnitude in so complicated a field. Because it is so diverse a field errors are bound to creep in, especially in the technical aspects. Thus one is startled to read that the Prussians under Frederick the Great used muskets with funneled muzzles to facilitate loading and that the musket of the 19th century infantryman was still a blunderbuss in this same tradition. The sources listed for further reading in the subject of weapons are not always the most reliable, but it is at the same time a tribute to the high standard of the book as a whole that these few lapses stand out so starkly. Unfortunately there is no bibliography as such, but the footnotes are detailed and reveal extensive research as well as providing a guide to further reading.

* * *

A much-needed history of the founding of the United States Navy has recently been produced by Marshall Smelser in *The Congress Found a Navy, 1787-1798* (University of Notre Dame Press, \$5.00). This excellent, well-written little volume of 217 pages traces the political struggles between

the mercantile North which favored a navy and the agrarian South and West which opposed the large expenditures necessary to obtain one. It was 1794 before the first three frigates were begun (of a total of six authorized), and there was so much criticism of the manner in which they were handled that the Navy Department was established as part of the federal government 30 April 1798. Comprehensive and based on primary source material, this volume will be a welcome addition to any reference shelf on the U. S. Navy.

* * *

The Navy History Division of the Navy Department has just published, and at a very reasonable price of \$3.00, the first volume of a projected series, *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*. This initial volume which covers just the ships with names beginning with A and B promises a great deal for the whole run. Each entry gives a brief entry regarding the person, place, or object for which the vessel is named (where appropriate), and then gives the naval code designation and specifications, and follows this with a short history of the ship's service. The range of time covered is the Revolution to the present day. All vessels carrying the same name are included.

Extensive appendices which include descriptive listings of all battleships, cruisers, submarines (including tenders and rescue vessels), torpedo boats and destroyers, and escort vessels commissioned by the Navy are included. While the work has been very much a project of the Ships History Section of the Navy History Division, most of the vital historical research was done by two men, James G. Boland and K. Jack Bauer and the book bears the mark of their work. This book and the ones to follow should be acquired by any serious student of American military and naval history; the series will undoubtedly become a basic reference source. As the government seldom reprints anything it publishes of this nature, early purchase would be a wise move.

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COMPANY Members whose interests include the history of the U. S. Army in the West, as well as those with more general interest in the military history of the United States, will welcome *Army Exploration in the American West—1803-1863*, by William H. Goetzmann (Yale University Press,

\$6.50). Perhaps the greatest value to be obtained from this book is the wealth of information it furnishes the reader who wishes to delve more deeply into the subject. Many books have been published on the individual explorations of the West, whether by Mountain Men or the U. S. Army, but Mr. Goetzmann has brought the total effort into focus.

While primarily a history of the brief existence of the Topographical Engineers as a separate Corps, the book underlines the tremendously important role played by the Mountain Men such as Jim Bridger, Bill Williams, Kit Carson, and others, in providing the guidelines upon which scientific explorations could build. The explorations of Fremont, Emory, Kearny, Marcy, Whipple, Ives, and others are described, and among the many side-lights related is the incident which brought down the wrath of Jeff Davis on the head of Lt. George Derby for his derisive suggestions pertaining to the new uniform ordered by Davis for the U. S. Army. The reader may be surprised to learn that the Pacific railroad reconnaissances failed to achieve the results intended, but the major contributions of the Topographical Corps and the quality of its officers cannot be denied.

There are twenty-seven illustrations, and besides maps included in the text there are, annexed separately, seven explorers' maps, including those of Mountain Man Jim Baker and Lt. G. K. Warren, later of Little Round Top fame. The book is capped with an excellent bibliographical essay.

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Once again the New-York Historical Society (NYHS) has presented some fine examples of military art relating to the American Revolution. In an article entitled "The British Who Fought at Stony Point" in the *NYHS Quarterly*, Volume XLIV (January 1960), pages 43-71, Richard J. Koke presents some excellent material on the British and Loyalist units that were in garrison at Stony Point in 1779. Eleven continuous tone copies of watercolors by the late Alexander R. Cattley, a leading British military artist, are displayed in a publication for the first time. Previously, the originals of these drawings were exhibited at the Stony Point Battlefield Museum; they are now in the possession of the NYHS. Each drawing is accompanied by a uniform description based upon the artist's notes. Mr. Koke, Curator of the NYHS Museum, has

written an excellent concise account of the regimental history for each unit depicted. The units represented are the Royal Artillery, the 17th, 42nd, 63rd, 64th, and 71st Regiments of Foot, the Soldier Artificer Company, and two Provincial units, the Loyal American Regiment and the Volunteers of Ireland. Students of the Revolution and those interested in military art will find this well researched article worthy of their attention. Copies of the *Quarterly* may be obtained from the NYHS, 170 Central Park West, New York 24, N.Y., at 75 cents per copy.

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Member Edward J. Stackpole has added another volume to his series on famous battles of the Civil War: *From Cedar Mountain to Antietam* (The Stackpole Company, \$5.95). In this work General Stackpole covers not one engagement but a number of important battles in Lee's first invasion of the North: Cedar Mountain, Second Manassas, Chantilly, South Mountain, Harpers Ferry, and Antietam. As usual there are excellent maps and the illustrations are both numerous and good.

* * *

Members interested in firearms have a group of books this quarter related directly to their field. In the realm of source material, COMPANY Fellow Ray Riling has reprinted another group of original manuals. Each is a facsimile in exact size, and each contains a note by Fellow Berkeley R. Lewis, usually at the end, which sets forth the background of the gun for which the manual was issued. These reprints have been made available in a very limited quantity and at a most reasonable price as a service to serious students of the subject. The individual manuals and their prices are as follows: *The Ward-Burton Rifle Musket*, 1871, \$1.75; *Rifle Musket, Model 1863*, \$1.00; *Springfield Breech-loading Rifle Musket, Model 1868*, \$1.25; *Five Models of Peabody Breech-loading Fire-arms*, 1870, \$2.00; *U. S. Magazine Rifle and Carbine, Model 1892* (Krag), \$2.25; and *Springfield Rifle, Carbine and Army Revolver*, 1874, \$2.00. Copies may be obtained from Member Riling, 6844 Gortsen Street, Philadelphia 19, Pennsylvania.

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Also largely source material is James L. Mitchell's *Colt, The Man, The Arms, The Company*,

(The Stackpole Company, \$10.00). This collection of letters to and from Colt is in no way an attempt to present a rounded biography of the man or a history of the plant or the arms which Colt invented. Students who already have a good background in the subject will find here many interesting and illuminating sidelights on Colt and his products which will add to their knowledge. Beginners will miss much of its import and will want to get their basic information elsewhere.

Charles E. Hanson, Jr., former Director of the Museum of the Fur Trade and recently elected to membership in THE COMPANY, has produced another volume in the fine tradition of his earlier book on the Northwest trade gun in *The Plains Rifle* (The Stackpole Company, \$10.00). In his usual careful well documented manner, Member Hanson has pieced together a great deal of new information on all types of rifles used by plainsmen. Pistols, too, and even shotguns, have also been treated since they were also used by the same breed of frontiersmen. In addition to technical data on the rifles themselves, there is much interesting material on their use, and above all there is considerable data on the makers who specialized in producing such arms for the West. The volume is quarto in size, in keeping with most of Stackpole's recent publications in the field of antique firearms. There are 171 pages, 72 plates, and an index.

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Just as this issue goes to press word has been received that Thomas Yoseloff has reprinted H. A. Ogden's plates and Henry Loomis Nelson's text in *Uniforms of the United States Army*, designed to sell for \$40 per set. No copy has as yet been seen so there is no opportunity to comment upon the quality of the reproductions or even to know if they are the same size as the originals. Detailed comments upon the values and inaccuracies of this work appeared in George Groce's article on Ogden in *MC&H*, volume I, number 2 and might be summarized with the statement that prior to the Civil War the plates are wildly inaccurate but that thereafter, with a few exceptions, they are excellent. It is unfortunate that the Nelson text has been chosen instead of the compilation of uniform regulations which accompanied the so-called "military edition" and which, though not complete, was a major contribution in itself.

RECORDS

Among the large crop of military records that have appeared in recent months, two have been called to our attention as being of especial interest to those concerned with American military traditions. RCA Victor has released *Songs of Battle* with the Ralph Hunter Choir accompanied by a particularly good orchestra under the direction of Sid Bass. Included are pieces from the Revolution through World War II, including such classics as "Chester," the "Liberty Song," the songs of the various services, and popular numbers like "Comin' in on a Wing and a Prayer," and "Over There." There is no real attempt for authentic arrangements, but a period flavor has been attained for most. Both performance and recording are excellent.

In an entirely different vein is Elektra's *Every*

Inch a Sailor recorded by Oscar Brand with occasional help from an informal chorus. Every bit as authentic as the previous, this compilation reflects the type of ditty more often sung by the enlisted men than the inspirational and sentimental variety usually encountered. Almost all the songs date from World War II, but there are one or two that go back further, though all refer to the steam navy. Most are genuinely (and thoroughly) bawdy and profane, but anyone who has ever spent any considerable time as a sailor will recognize many old favorites. For contrast there are also ballads such as "The Reuben James" and "The Battle of Ormoc Bay." This is the second of the Brand-Elektra series of service songs. The first was *Wild Blue Yonder*, still the best, and next to come is *Tell It to the Marines* which will be awaited with considerable anticipation.

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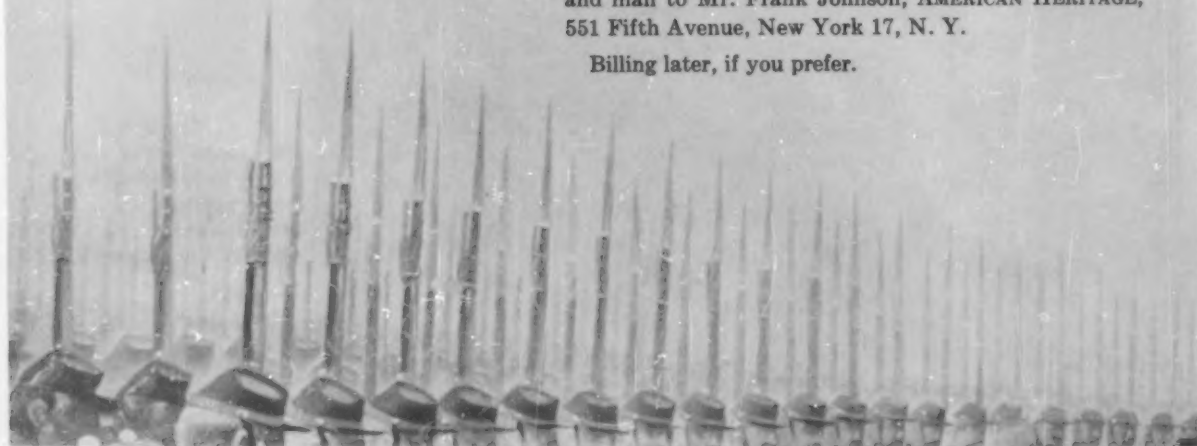
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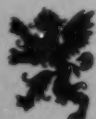
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